

29 SEP 2003

Langkawi-Preparation

LEGENDARY ISLAND OF LANGKAWI ALL SET FOR LIMA 2003

LANGKAWI, Sept 29 (Bernama) -- Preparations for the seventh Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace Exhibition (LIMA) went into full swing today as participants got themselves ready for opening of the largest aerospace and maritime exhibition in the region by the Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, tomorrow.

Dr Mahathir is scheduled to open the aerospace exhibition at the Mahsuri International Exhibition Centre in Padang Mat Sirat here at 10.00am and the Maritime Exhibition in the afternoon on board the Floating Pavilion at Porto Malai in Ketawang, about 10kms away.

The Prime Minister is also expected to launch the Langkawi Yacht Registry during LIMA, making the island the centre for yacht registration in Malaysia.

Since its inception in 1991, the biennial exhibition has developed into a major regional air and maritime show, attracting major international aerospace and maritime industry players.

The six-day LIMA 2003 is the largest ever and the most impressive, given the participation of 600 companies from 28 countries against 500 companies from 27 countries in 2001. (A total of 150 companies took part in the first LIMA).

In store this time around are magnificent aerobatic shows by England's Red Arrows and the Royal Malaysian Air Force aerobatic team as well as aerial displays by the Russia's SU-30MK Sukhoi and Boeing's FA-18E/EF Super Hornets.

The Red Arrows, in Langkawi for the sixth time, regard LIMA as the most important airshow in their calendar.

Other attractions include the parachute jump by some 200 paratroopers from the Malaysian Rapid Deployment Force from two C130 Hercules.

Apart from exhibition, LIMA would witness the signing of several agreements, worth several hundred million ringgit, for the procurement of aircraft and aircraft electronics.

Defence Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said LIMA has propelled Langkawi on to the world map and has helped Malaysia accelerate the modernisation of its defence system.

-- BERNAMA

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